Today too, he is making shoes.
Within the store atelier's white walls resides
my god.

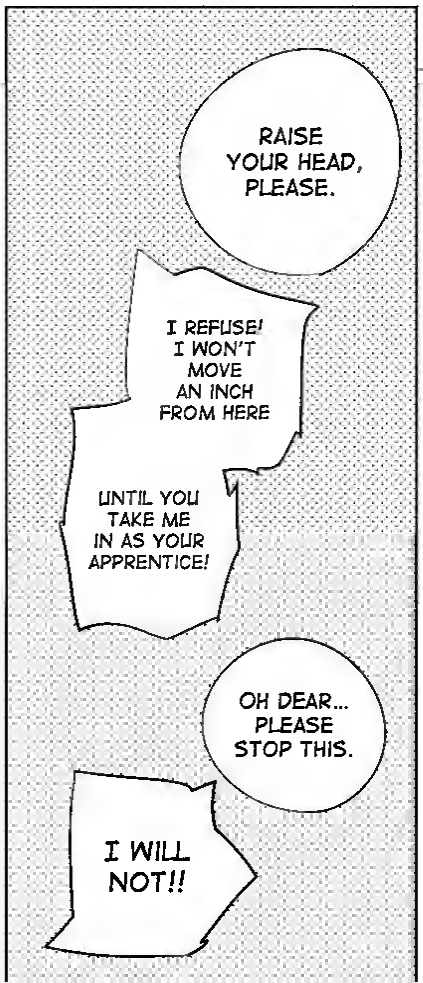
Twisted
shoe
sole

PLEASE MAKE ME YOUR APPRENTICE!!
Bow
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PLEASE COME AGAI...
...PARDON?

a shoemaker lives quietly.
back street of the local shopping district
...EH?
Mr. Hasegawa, the store's owner, is the person I admire.
YOU'D LIKE TO BECOME MY APPRENTICE?

HERE IS MY RESUME!
I ASSURE YOU I'M NOT JOKING AT ALL!
YOU MUST BE JOKING.
Y-YES!
WOW! ISN'T THIS IMPRESSIVE.
SO YOU UNDERWENT STUDY IN FRANCE.
HOW LOVELY. I'VE NEVER BEEN OVERSEAS MYSELF, YOU SEE.
I FIGURED FRENCH SHOES RESEMBLE YOUR DESIGNS THE MOST SO...
HUH!?

SO THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN LEARN FROM ME.
HUH
N-NO
THANKS FOR COMING.


RAISE YOUR HEAD, PLEASE.
I REFUSE! I WON'T MOVE AN INCH FROM HERE
UNTIL YOU TAKE ME IN AS YOUR APPRENTICE!
OH DEAR... PLEASE STOP THIS.
I WILL NOT!!

I'D LIKE TO LEARN UNDER YOU NO MATTER WHAT, MR. HASEGAWA!!
WHAM
I BEG YOU!!

EH?
HEY.
Tch
HOW BOTHERSOME.
YE- YES!!
YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME MY APPRENTICE THAT MUCH?
OF COURSE!!
SWISH
ALRIGHT THEN.
NO MATTER WHAT?
YES!!
HE-H...

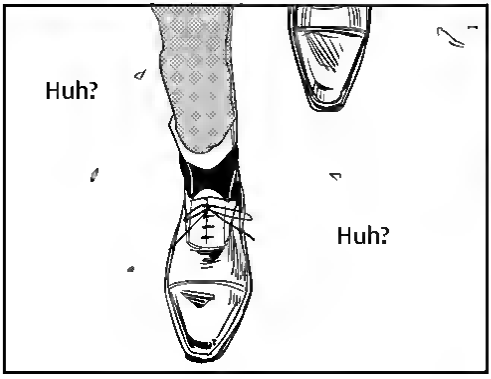
HUH?
THERE IS ONE CONDITION.
FWA
REALLY?!
...HOWEVER
WH-WHAT IS IT? I'LL ACCEPT NO MATTER WHAT IT IS! PLEASE LET ME HEAR IT!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD.
I'M SORRY...
OH... AREN'T THOSE THE SHOES I MADE?
YES!
THEY ARE ONES I DECIDED TO GET FOR MY FIRST PURCHASED PAIR! FOR TODAY'S OCCASION, I POLISHED UNTIL THEY SPARKLED
...I SEE.
SO, WON'T YOU

STE...
HUH?
HUH?
STEP ON ME WITH THOSE SHOES?
FWK
I MEAN EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.
SWISH..
OH!
COULD THAT BE PROFESSIONAL JARGON?
...
"PLEASE STEP ON ME WITH THOSE SHOES."
SHALL I REPEAT IT IN FRENCH FOR YOU?

THEN WE WILL PRETEND THIS CONVERSATION NEVER HAPPENED.
I-I COULDN'T POSSIBLY DO SUCH A THING...
I have to... step on Mr Hasegawa ...?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ASK OF YOU OTHER THAN THAT.
WAIT, I'LL DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT!
I STUDIED FOR YEARS JUST FOR TODAY'S SAKE!!
BUT
YES, BUT I DON'T NEED IT.
I WILL DEFINITELY BE HELPFUL TO YOU!

TAK TAK

YES, YOU HAVE MY CONDOLENCES!


Huh?
Huh?

SHH
... Huh?

WOAH.
WELCO...

I AM TERRIBLY SORRY, FOR WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU COME TODAY?
I CAME TO ASK TO BECOME YOUR APPRENTICE.
IS THIS REALLY SOMETHING TO 'WOAH' ABOUT...
...NO, IT ISN'T.
KLIK
...I THOUGHT THAT DISCUSSION WAS ALREADY OVER, NO?
AND THE ANSWER IS, WEARING IT ALONE IS JUST NOT ENOUGH.
SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE EXTENT OF MY LOVE FOR YOUR SHOES,

I WANT TO BECOME YOUR APPRENTICE NO MATTER WHAT.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR SHOES.
...UM
ARE YOU LISTENING?
I ACCEPT YOUR CONDITION.
SO?

he was just testing me.
To be honest, I was hoping that
he would accept me ...
That once he recognised how passionate I am,
It's a nightmare...
Why has it come to this...

HAVING TO STEP ON THE PERSON I'VE BEEN ADMIRING FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.
HUH?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW?

That's right. This is the decision I came to after all that agony.

SQUEEZE
JUST LIKE I PRACTISED...
IT'S ALRIGHT.
CRUSH
WHAM
YOU...
HIDEOUS SWINE!!

CLATTER
CLAT TER
CLAT TER
WHY DID YOU HIT ME!? THAT HURT!!
OUCH
TAP TAP
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!!
SWINE?
TAP
TAP
NO, BUT I'M STILL NEW TO THIS, SO THIS IS PRETTY MUCH AS FAR AS I CAN MANAGE...
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH? I MEAN, YOU'RE INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF, AREN'T YOU?
...THAT KIND OF STUFF?
EVEN IF YOU DEMAND THAT KIND OF *VOCABULAIRE* OUTRIGHT...

HAH?
AH! IT'S ALRIGHT!
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF *INCLINATION* YOU HAVE, THE RESPECT I FEEL TOWARDS YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE!!
YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT FEELS PLEASURE FROM BEING TRAMPLED ON AND TREATED HORRIBLY, RIGHT?
HE-H
IN FACT, I DID A LOT OF RESEARCH ON MY OWN BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND YOU BETTER!!
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE SUCH A DISPOSITION.
BUT WHY !?
ANYWAY, CAN I HIT YOU NOW?

...
...YOU SEE, MY FAMILY HAS BEEN MAKING SHOES SINCE MY GRANDFATHER'S GENERATION.
HUH? OH, SO IT'S LIKE THAT...
THEN, YOU WERE REALLY TESTING ME...
EH!?
CLATTER
I knew it, this person is amazing...
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I LIKED TO WATCH WHAT HAPPENED IN THE STORE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN CUSTOMERS PUT ON THE SHOES THEY ORDERED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
If I think about it calmly, there is no way such an amazing person would want to be stepped on.
IT WAS A SCENE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT IT SEEMED TO SHINE.
WHAT A WONDERFUL STORY
AT MY GRAND-FATHER'S STORE, THERE WAS THIS LOVELY LEATHER FOOTSTOOL
ON WHICH CUSTOMERS TRIED ON THEIR SHOES.

IS YOUR REASON FOR MAKING SHOES BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE STEPPED ON BY THEM!?
I THOUGHT THAT I WANTED TO BE STEPPED ON BY SHOES THAT I MADE
WHAT'S WITH THAT DEVELOP-MENT?
SO MUCH THAT I WANTED TO BECOME THAT STOOL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU PERVERT.
EVEN THE SHOES YOU SO ADORE WERE MADE BY *THIS KIND OF MAN*, YOU KNOW?
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
... DON'T CRY.
Drop

I MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT STEPPING ON SOMEONE BEFORE.
BECAUSE I LOVE THEM.
NO NO NO, PLEASE DENY
BUT IF YOU SEE IT THAT WAY, IT MUST BE TRUE.
I'M A PERVERT.
EVEN AFTER HEARING THAT, MY LOVE FOR YOUR SHOES HASN'T CHANGED...
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
JUST WHY...

THEY'RE IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION, EVEN AFTER 5 YEARS.
IT'S EVIDENT JUST HOW MUCH YOU TREASURE THEM.
I CAN SEE THAT THEY ARE WELL-LOVED.
How does it fit?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU ALSO CRIED WHEN YOU FIRST PUT ON MY SHOES, DIDN'T YOU?
I-I'm sorry
I'm just a bit overwhelmed

Y-YOU REMEMBER THAT?
FLUSH
What a strange fellow
Are you alright?
Uuh...
Huurgh, I'm sorry
Hic
BACK THEN, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE SUCH A MEAN PERSON!!
BA-
IN
Oh, you've finally said it, you chicken.
WELL, YOU WERE THE FIRST CUSTOMER THAT BROKE OUT CRYING.
UURGH
IT WAS QUITE TROUBLESOME WAITING FOR YOU TO STOP CRYING.
URGH
BUT I THOUGHT IF IT'S YOU, YOU MIGHT UNDERSTAND.
EH?
OH WELL.
I COULD DECEIVE YOU, LETTING YOU THINK THAT I WAS KIND.

I GOT CALLED A SWINE AS A RESULT THOUGH.
NO! THAT WAS ...
I KNOW. MY BAD.
...UH.
PARDON ME!
WHUMP
EH?
PLEASE GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE.
THUD
WHAT ARE YOU-
KLAK

CRUSH
... AAH, IT'S FINE NOW.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO THIS, I'LL STILL ACCEPT YOU AS-
GUH
UGH
Gah
BAS-TARD
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
It hurts!!!
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU I WASN'T INTO THIS STUFF!
I AM VERY MOVED.

THIS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THEY'VE EVER LOOKED.
THESE SHOES... OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS
THEY'RE SPARKLING RADIANTLY.
SHUT UP AND GET OFF!!
POW
OUCH!!
...MM!!

JUST WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THAT?
THAT'S BECAUSE...
...UM-
YOU'RE MORE ANNOYING THAN I THOUGHT.
HOW UNREASONABLE !!
IT WAS AWFUL
BUT
I HAD NEVER SEEN MY SHOES SO BEAUTIFUL TILL THEN...
AND PAINFUL
THANK YOU. IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.

REALLY?
GRIP
... WHY ARE YOU SO EAGER ALL OF A SUDDEN?
EH, I'M NOT EXACTLY EAGER.
TWITCH
IT'S FINE!
WHENEVER YOU WANT ME TO STEP ON YOU, PLEASE SAY SO!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE REALLY ENJOYING YOURSELF WHEN YOU STEPPED ON ME BEFORE.
YOU KNOW,
COME ON THAT'S OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE!
C-
COULD IT BE THAT YOU
ACTUALLY HAVE THAT KIND OF HOBBY YOURSELF?

Definitely impossible.
Things like finding his face glaring at me from beneath adorable...
or finding his pained expression erotic...
It can't be...
EH...
SO YOU MEAN...
DON'T YOU GO DEVELOPING FEELINGS FOR ME.
.....
SINCE YOU'LL BE WORKING HERE AS A LIVE-IN EMPLOYEE
I HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU THAT SINCE A WHILE AGO, NO?
I'M REALLY NO GOOD WITH PEOPLE WHO DON'T LISTEN.
FWJSP
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

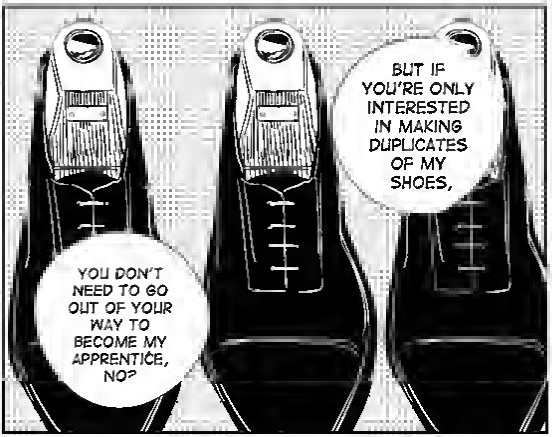
WHY IS THAT!?
... MAYBE I SHOULD REFUSE AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE KIND OF SCARY.
...
THERE'S NO WAY I'D LOOK AT YOU IN THAT WAY!
YOUR EXISTENCE IS LIKE THAT OF A GOD TO ME!!
YOU ARE THE SCARY ONE, MR HASEGAWA!! JUST LOOK AT THIS NOSEBLEED!!
FLINCH
DO YOU GET EXCITED WHEN YOU'RE HIT!?
I DO NOT!!
BUT,
WELL....
I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE GUYS WHO TREAT HUMANS AS GODS THOUGH.
UH...

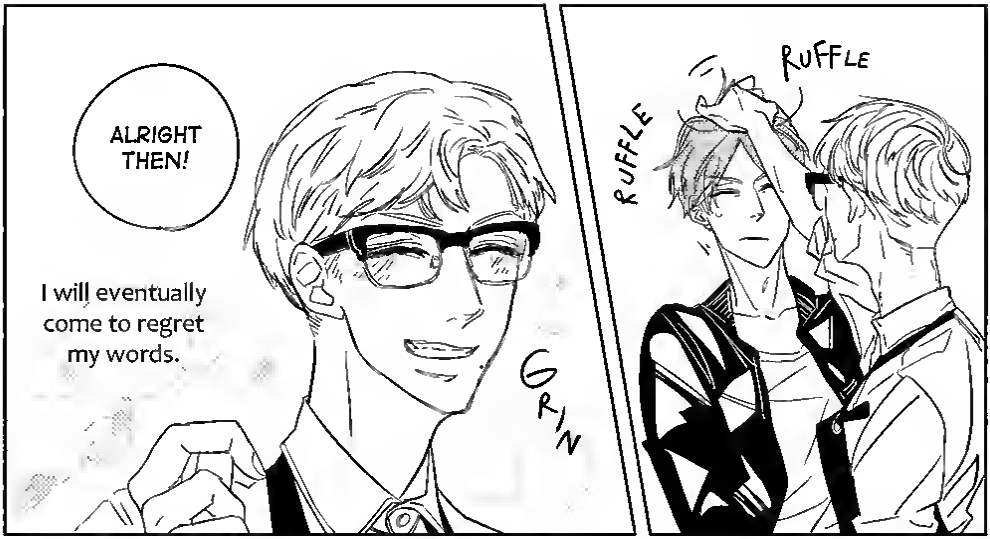
Huh? That's strange. What's this feeling ...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

IT DOESN'T FEEL TOO BAD HEARING THAT FROM YOU.

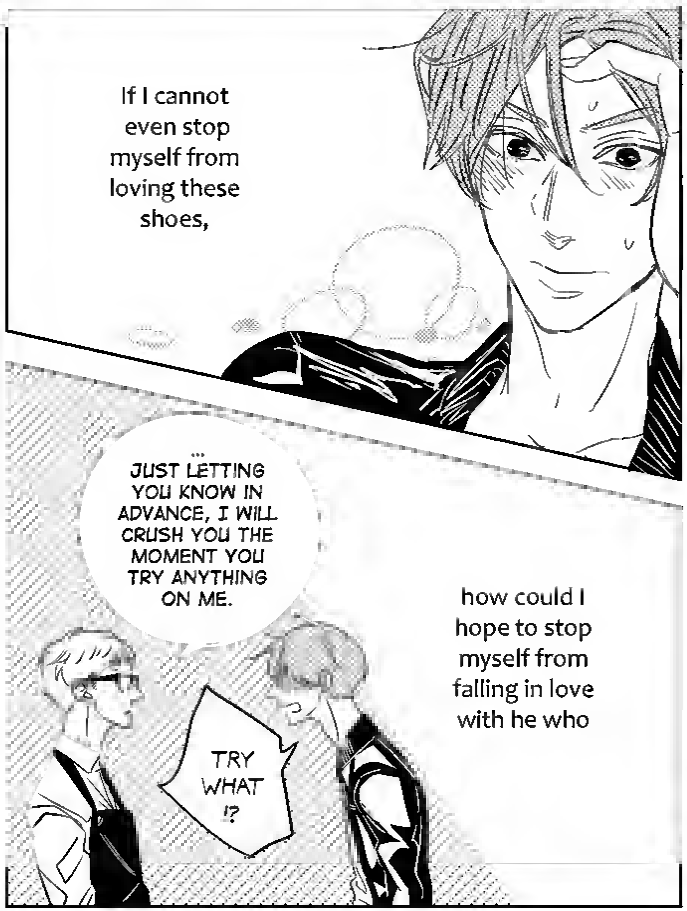
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I WANT TO SURPASS YOU, MR HASEGAWA!
I WANT YOU TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SHOES I MAKE!!

AH.
THAT'S NOT RIGHT. I'M ONLY IN LOVE WITH THE SHOES THIS PERSON MAKES!


BUT IF YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN MAKING DUPLICATES OF MY SHOES,
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO BECOME MY APPRENTICE, NO?


ALRIGHT THEN!
I will eventually come to regret my words.
GRIN
RUFFLE
RUFFLE

YOUR ANSWER?
Under-stood ↺


If I cannot even stop myself from loving these shoes,
how could I hope to stop myself from falling in love with he who
...JUST LETTING YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE, I WILL CRUSH YOU THE MOMENT YOU TRY ANYTHING ON ME.
TRY WHAT !?

End.

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だって、美味しいのが悪い。

Since delicious things are bad.

GOOD NIGHT

I SAID SO DIDN'T I? MY HOUSE IS QUITE CRAMPED
WELL, EVEN SO I MEAN...
NE-NE-NEXT TO YOU?
EH, I WILL SLEEP HERE AS WELL?
he's not wearing his glasses, and somehow that makes him look so...
?
On another note, since he just came out of the bath,
WHY? YOU DON'T WANT TO? WOULD YOU PREFER TO SLEEP OUTSIDE?
ARE THOSE MY ONLY TWO OPTIONS?
KLUNK
and defence-less!!
CHILD-LIKE! SO CUTE!
He was heavily armed.
OH HERE... JUST IN CASE.
Since you're a pervert.
I'M GOING TO TURN OFF THE LIGHT NOW
I'm sleepy.
PLEASE WAIT, I HAVE YET TO PREPARE MY HEART...
End.